

Response

Application No. 10/619,192

Attorney Docket No. 030865

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Drawing Sheet includes changes to Fig. 10(B). Fig. 10(B) has been amended such that the second occurrence of the reference numeral "451" has been changed to "452".

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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-5 and 9-14 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended to correct a minor informality. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 7 and 8 are allowable.

Claim Objections:

Claim 8 stands objected to on page 2 of the Action due to a minor informality. It is respectfully submitted that claim 8 has been amended to correct the informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 USC 112, First Paragraph, Rejection:

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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It is noted that independent claim 6 calls for *wherein the lenses comprises a plurality of laminated insulation plates each of which has throughholes at portions respectively corresponding to optical axes of the primary electron beams.*

The Examiner asserts that the specification is completely silent with regard to the feature of a plurality of laminated insulation plates, as required in claim 6.

However, it is submitted that page 25, lines 16-22, of the present specification, describes an embodiment, with reference to Fig 10B, wherein each of the lens electrodes R1-R4 includes a thin plate section 451 and a beam structure section or thick plate section 452, made of an insulation material.

In view of such disclosure, it is submitted that the Examiner's position is overcritical, since thin plate section 451 and a beam structure section or thick plate section 452 constitute a plurality of laminate insulation plates.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

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Drawings Objections:

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to illustrate the plurality of laminated insulation plates as recited in claim 6.

As discussed above, page 25, lines 16-22, of the present specification, describes an embodiment, with reference to Fig 10B, wherein each of the lens electrodes R1-R4 includes a thin plate section 451 and a beam structure section or thick plate section 452, made of an insulation material. As such, it is submitted that Fig. 10B clearly illustrates the plurality of laminated insulation plates recited in claim 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

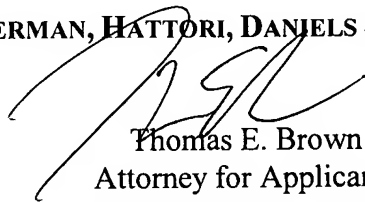
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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